

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action mailed May 9, 2002, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment the examined claims 1-9 are cancelled and are replaced by new claims 10 and 11. Claim 10 is a combination of the examined claims that explains more clearly the structure of flat core brushless motor described in the patent application. New claim 10 is supported by each of the three embodiments described in the patent application and depicted in Figures 1, 3, and 4, particularly when taken in combination with Figure 2. That Figure 2 also supports claim 11.

Of the examined claims, claims 1-7 were rejected as anticipated by Nitta et al. (U.S. Patent 5,604,389, hereafter Nitta). Claims 1-9 were rejected as unpatentable over Nitta in view of Takeda (U.S. Patent 6,104,114). It is presumed that this second rejection was intended for all examined claims and was not inadvertently stated as applying to all claims when it may have been intended only to refer to claims 8 and 9. While the rejections are moot in view of the newly presented claim, for the reasons discussed below, claim 10 cannot be anticipated by Nitta nor obvious in view of any combination of Nitta and Takeda.

Nitta cannot anticipate either of claims 10 and 11. Nitta may disclose some kind of support structure in Figures 6 and 7. The base plate 4 in Nitta's Figure 7 includes three pawls, given the reference number 18 in Figure 7 but apparently not identified within Nitta's specification. These pawls are not equal in number to the number of poles illustrated in the corresponding embodiments of Nitta, for example, in Nitta's Figures 11 and 12. Moreover, the pawls are not received within recesses of the respective poles.

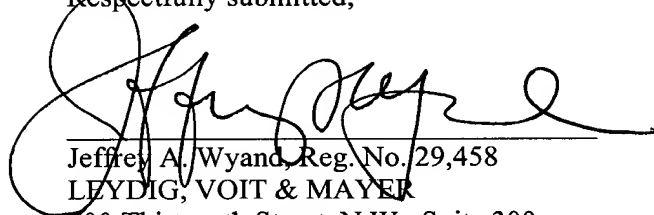
In the invention, the single stator base supplies two important functions. The stator base, through the supports, provides a reliable stationary support for the stator. In addition, the stator base provides a firm mounting for the shaft. Nitta, like Takeda, requires multiple elements to achieve these two functions so that on this additional ground Nitta could not anticipate either of new claims 10 and 11. Because of these and other differences, claims 10 and 11 are patentable over Nitta.

Neither pending claim can be obvious over Nitta in view of Takeda because, like Nitta, Takeda does not disclose any support element that might suggest a modification of Nitta that could produce the invention as described in new claims 10 and 11. Moreover, like Nitta, Takeda does not disclose a single element, a stator base, that supports the stator coil and in which the shaft is fixedly mounted.

In re Appln. of Yamaguchi et al.
Application No. 09/587,340

Reconsideration and allowance of the newly submitted claims are appropriate and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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